Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application claims the benefit of <u>U.S. Patent Number 6,690,682</u> ~~U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/124,293,~~ filed March 12, 1999, ~~and is related to U.S. Patent Application No. _____ (Attorney Docket No. 56115534.118125, Case Name: Giaretta 2-28-22-28-16),~~ entitled "Bit Multiplexing of Packet-Based Channels" and <u>U.S. Patent Number 6,771,671, filed November 22, 1999,</u> ~~U.S. Patent Application No. __/___,___, (Attorney Docket No. 11813, Case Name Fields 2-29-24-18),~~ entitled "DATA FLOW SYNCHRONIZATION AND ORDERING".